

TURKEY TO SEND TROOPS TO CRETE. War with Greece Seems Almost Inevitable.

EXCITEMENT IN ATHENS. Crowds Throng the Streets, and a Warlike Spirit Prevails.

GREECE'S STRONG ALLIES. Both France and Russia Said to Be Backing King George.

ITALY WILL REMAIN NEUTRAL. Does Not Wish to Serve the Sultan in Any Way—Cretan Insurgents to Attack Canea.

ATHENS, Feb. 12.—1:15 a. m. The greatest excitement prevails here. The papers have issued midnight editions containing a report that the Vail of Smyrna has chartered a steamer for the purpose of transporting troops to Crete, and this in the face of the assurances given to the powers by the Porte that Turkey would not send reinforcements to the island.

The newspapers and the crowds in the street declare that the action of the Vail is taken with the full cognizance of the Porte, which has again proved, if proof is necessary, that not the slightest confidence can be placed in its assurances or promises.

Hearty denunciation of the Turkish Government are heard on every hand. The city is alive at this hour and the principal streets are filled with Greeks, who demand that the Greek warships shall prevent the landing of further troops in Crete.

It is believed here that orders to that effect have already been given to Prince George, and there is no doubt that he will fully carry out his instructions, in which case war with Turkey would probably result unless diplomacy or superior force should be employed to divert Greece from her determination to protect the Cretan Christians, and also, perhaps, to bring about the long-sought-for annexation of the island.

A telegram from Canea says the Cretans and the Foreign Consuls here have agreed that Hilepa shall be regarded as neutral territory until an attack shall be made on Canea. In the event of such an attack being decided upon the Consuls shall have twenty-four hours' notice. The commander of the Greek warships here has promised the commanders of the other war vessels to give them forty hours' notice in the event of his attacking the town.

A message from London says the powers will force Greece to abandon the idea of going to war with Turkey.

Italy Will Not Oppose Greece. Rome, Feb. 12.—A semi-official note has been issued here, stating that Italy will not oppose Greece in any action the latter country may take on the Cretan question. It is added that Italy does not wish to serve Turkey in any way.

Berlin, Feb. 12.—The Post, of this city, this evening publishes an article in which it says that war between Greece and Turkey is almost inevitable. The paper adds that Turkey is entitled to allow her troops to cross the Thessalian frontier in view of the action of Greece.

Vienna, Feb. 12.—It is reported here that a blockade of Crete by the European powers will be established shortly.

WRONGS OF THE CRETANS. C. D. Phassoularides Says Their Revolution Is Justified by Turkey's Broken Promises.

Editor New York Journal: Since 1869, when the Turks seized the island of Crete from the Venetians, the people of that island have been fighting for independence. They have gained reforms as the result of revolution, and it seems probable that now they will gain freedom from Turkish rule and union with Greece.

The leader of the insurgent army is Comandourakis, but the fighter, the man whom the people look upon as their war chief, is Nikolas Christodoulakis, a Spikiotis of great valor and an experienced soldier. Spikiotis, from where Christodoulakis comes, is away up in the mountains of Crete, and inhabited by a people whose natural occupation is war. They have never submitted to the Turkish rulers, have always governed themselves, and in the many revolutions have been the first to enter the field and the last to leave it. Fourteen of Christodoulakis were killed in previous revolutions. He is forty-five years old, and has fought not only in Crete but in Thessaly during the revolution of 1878.

An Intelligent Leader. When the Reform Committee of Twelve was organized seven months ago under the presidency of Comandourakis, this great Spikiotis was the first to say: "I am ready to fight." To be the leader of that mountain people he needed to possess extraordinary courage, united with great craft and the reputation of numerous wonderful achievements in battle. With all that he is well educated and qualified to live happily in a state of peace. He has several times commanded the demands of Crete on Turkey. His lieutenant is his cousin, George Christodoulakis, also a fighter of great glory among the Spikiotis.

The mountain men are always in the front of the battles, although there are 14,000 other Cretans are not men fighters. Neither the Cretans nor Turks are provided with very modern arms, and it is seldom that attacks are made in force. The Cretan programme has been to draw the Turks into the mountains and pick them off at leisure, but they have encountered obstacles in Turkish generals who were able strategists or butchers.

To understand the present situation on the unhappy island some of its history must be known and the facts borne in mind that of its 280,000 inhabitants less than 50,000 are Mussulmans. The rest are Greeks and are Christians of the Greek, Roman and Protestant churches. There were many revolutions prior to 1822, when Greece won her independence. The Cretans then fought her for freedom, but the European powers would not permit them to succeed. In 1855 another revolution

arose and ran intermittently for two years. Alexander II, proposed to Napoleon III, that Russia and France declare for Cretean freedom, but Napoleon had promised Sultan Abdul Aziz not to interfere and would not break his word.

Sympathy of Americans. Many Americans expressed their sympathy for the Cretans at that time and Dr. Samuel Howe, of Boston, formed a Cretan committee which raised a great deal of money to aid the revolutionists. The Sultan conquered and the revolutionists were hunted for many years.

After the treaty of Berlin, at the conclusion of the Russo-Turkish War, the Sultan, moved by the powers, made a treaty with the Cretans at Halepa, in which they were guaranteed a Christian Governor and a Parliament. This treaty was kept for eight years and the islanders had no considerable cause for complaint.

In 1890 the Sultan sent a Mussulman Governor to Crete, Tourhan Pasha, and the people revolted. Tourhan Pasha was withdrawn, and a Greek Governor, Costakis Andronikis, who is now Turkish Ambassador to London, went in his stead, but Costakis, finding that he must fight against people of his own nation, resigned. Then Sahir Pasha, a Turk and a Mussulman, became Governor. He put down the revolution and was transferred to Armenia.

But, although the Sultan had conquered Crete, again, he replaced Sahir with a Christian, Alexander Karatziotou Pasha, who had been Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs and is now the first interpreter of the Sultan. He is a great politician and broadly educated. Although born in Stambul and serving the Sultan, he has ever been considered as a Greek, and has held to the faith of his people. His rule in Crete was wise, and on his withdrawal trouble arose.

Cause of the Present War. By the treaty of Halepa, the Turkish Government bound itself to devote money obtained from taxes on the island to the Greek schools. This was never done under any Governor. Various attempts to secure

Active negotiations on these proposals are now proceeding.

A high authority at the Foreign Office to-day said that he believed the proposal of M. Hanotaux was a Franco-Russian scheme to permit Greece to occupy the island, with Prince George, second son of the King of the Hellenes, as Governor-General, the island continuing to pay tribute to Turkey.

Canea to Be Attacked. A dispatch from Constantinople says that 4,000 Cretan insurgents are concentrated in the vicinity of Canea, awaiting the arrival of arms, ammunition and equipments from Spaklia, on the south coast near the western extremity of the island of Crete, where they have been landed by expeditions from Greece. When these supplies are received it is the intention of the insurgents to make an attack upon Canea.

The dispatch adds that the Turkish authorities are now convinced that the pacification of the island can only be effected by European occupation.

The Greek Charge d'Affaires here has informed Lord Salisbury that his Government has decided to prevent the Turks from landing any reinforcements upon the island of Crete.

Christians the Aggressors. In the House of Commons to-day George N. Curzon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Foreign Office, announced that the latest news received by the Government from Crete was that the Christians were the aggressors, and were attacking the Moslems in many localities. A large number of Moslems, Mr. Curzon said, had been killed, and thirteen villages had been burned.

The Stock Exchange was characterized

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